

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in the present application.

The USPTO requires election under 37 CFR § 1.499 in the present application between nine inventive embodiments that are disclosed at pages 3-7 of the instant specification.

Accordingly, in response to the outstanding election requirement, Applicants elect, without traverse, the invention of Claim 1 drawn to the method of reduction (a) that is recited therein.

Claim 1 is reproduced below in order to facilitate the Examiner's ease of review of the instantly elected embodiment (elected species). Claims readable on the elected species are claims 1, 3-5 and 7-12.

1. A process for preparing tetrahydropyran-4-one represented by the formula (1):



(1)

which comprises reacting at least one kind of dihydropyran-4-one and pyran-4-one represented by the formula (2):



(2)

wherein  $\equiv$  represents a single bond or a double bond,  
and hydrogen

(a) in the presence of a metal catalyst, in a mixed solvent of an aprotic solvent and an alcohol solvent, or

(b) in the presence of an anhydrous metal catalyst in which a hydrated metal catalyst is subjected to dehydration treatment, in a hydrophobic organic solvent.

(Emphasis added)

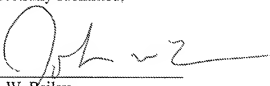
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John W. Bailey, Registration No 32,881 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

- ☐ Attached is a Petition for Extension of Time.
- ☐ Attached hereto is the fee transmittal listing the required fees.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By   
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